

News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission
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State Disclosure Agency Appoints General Counsel

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), California's governmental ethics and campaign disclosure agency, today announced the appointment of Zackery P. Morazzini as the Commission's General Counsel.

Morazzini formerly oversaw a team of attorneys in the Government Law Section at the California Department of Justice, where he and his staff advised constitutional officers and high-level state officials on how to comply with the Commission's conflict-of-interest provisions and other state laws, and served as prosecutor and defense counsel in civil litigation and on appeal in federal and state courts on behalf of state agencies.

"I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Zack to this significant role," said Commission Chair Ann Ravel. "Zack's knowledge of the Political Reform Act and demonstrated commitment to protecting the interests of all Californians will enable him to provide excellent guidance to the Commission."

Morazzini was with the Department of Justice for nearly 10 years, serving first as a Graduate Legal Scholar in Attorney General Lockyer's Executive Division in 2001, then as a Deputy Attorney General from 2002-2004 and finally as a Supervising DAG in the Government Law Section from 2009-2011. Prior to his time at the DOJ, Morazzini worked in both private practice and public interest law.

"Zack's extensive experience will be beneficial as the Commission embarks on new efforts to make our rules easier to understand and follow," added Ravel.

Upon receiving his Juris Doctorate and Governmental Affairs Certificate with distinction from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1999, Morazzini received a full academic scholarship for admission to the Master of Laws program at McGeorge, which he completed in 2002 receiving an LL.M in Government and Public Policy.

Morazzini most recently represented the interests of the FPPC during his successful defense against a temporary restraining order in *ProtectMarriage.com v. Bowen*, a case testing the constitutionality of the reporting requirements of California's Political Reform Act under the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment. The Commission and other parties are currently in the discovery phase of this suit with a trial date scheduled for March 26, 2012.

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